

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 17-19, 23-33, and 41-44 are pending. Claim 17, 19, and 25 have been amended in this amendment. Claims 6-16 and 45-49 were canceled in previous amendment. Claims 34-40 have been canceled in this amendment. No new matter has been added.

The Amendment filed on March 29, 2005 was objected to for being in a non-compliant form. The claims have been amended in response to the objection. The disclosure was objected for informalities in col. 2:60-66. The corresponding paragraph has been amended in response to the objection.

Claims 17-19 and 20-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants traverse the rejection. Claim 17 has been amended. The term "given circuit" has been amended as "program circuit." Support for the amendment is found in Fig. 1 and the corresponding description, e.g., the paragraph beginning at col. 2, line 8. An additional tab was added preceding each line for "a first circuit" and "a second circuit" to clarify that the first and second circuits are part of the program circuit. The first circuit performs compares or determines whether or not the first information has been properly programmed. The first circuit performs a similar function as that performed by the comparator in claim 1. The second circuit sends a signal to initiate reprogramming if any of the cells has not been properly programmed. The second circuit performs a similar function as that performed by the control circuit in claim 1.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite the following features, "wherein the first circuit is a comparator, the second circuit is a control circuit, wherein the program circuit further includes a data latch circuit for storing information according to the determination made by the first circuit." Support for this amendment is found in Fig. 1 and the corresponding description.

Claim 25 has been amended to recite the following features, "a data latch circuit for latching the compared results of the comparator." Support for this amendment is found in Fig. 1 and the corresponding description.

Claims 20-22 and 34-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. in view of Nobukata. These claims have been canceled to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 17-19 and 23-33 include allowable subject matter. Claims 17 and 23 have been rewritten to clarify the recited features of the claims. Applicant also thank for allowing claims 41-44.

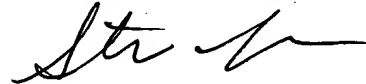
Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for courtesy phone call prior to issuing a next Office Action.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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